

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 170036
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 STR-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00
CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15
ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /079 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:HCOCHRAN:EH
APPROVED BY EA:EHEGINBOTHAM
EA/J:NPLATT
STR: GFEEKETEKUTY

-----007419 210034Z /65

O 210016Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170036

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: SUBCABINET AND MTN MEETINGS

REF: TOKYO 10637

1. DEPUTY ASST. SECRETARY HEGINBOTHAM MET WITH ECONOMIC MINISTER HIROMU FUKADA, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR KOICHIROMATSUURA, AND MR. ARAKI (TDY FROM SECOND N.A. DIVISION, MOFA) TO DISCUSS THE SUBCABINET AND MTN MEETINGS. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON DATES, PREPARATION, PRESS HANDLING AND FOLLOWUP.

2. DATES. FUKADA NOTED THAT THE GOJ WANTED TO HAVE THE SEPARATE MTN TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR WOLFE EITHER SEPTEMBER 7-8, OR 8-9, PRIOR TO THE SUBCABINET MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12. HE SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR STRAUSS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 170036

MIGHT VISIT LATER IN SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER, SINCE A VISIT CONCURRENT WITH OR SHORTLY AFTER THE SUBCABINET WOULD OVERLOAD THE JAPANESE BUREAUCRACY.

3. DAS HEGINBOTHAM SAID EXACT DATES WERE STILL BEING CONSIDERED AT HIGH LEVELS IN WASHINGTON. PLANNING OF A POSSIBLE VISIT BY UNDER SECRETARY COOPER AND AMB. STRAUSS TO

CONSULT WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES FOLLOWING THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE SEPTEMBER 7-8 ASEAN MEETING IN MANILA IS A COMPLICATING

FACTOR. THIS COULD ARGUE FOR SUBCABINET MEETINGS SEPTEMBER 16-17, INCIDENTALLY PERMITTING YOSHINO A RESPITE AFTER HIS RETURN TO TOKYO SEPT. 10. WE WOULD PROVIDE MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON DATES AS SOON AS IT BECAME AVAILABLE.

4. PREPARATION, FOLLOWUP AND PRESS HANDLING. FUKADA SUGGESTED THAT WE NOT EXCHANGE OVERLY DETAILED WORKING PAPERS PRIOR TO THE VISIT AND INQUIRED AS TO THE FOLLOWUP WE HAD IN MIND. ARAKI EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE TOKYO PRESS MIGHT TREAT THE MEETING AS A US-JAPAN CONFRONTATION. FUKADA ASKED WHAT SCHEDULE WE FORESEE FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.

5. SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS: DAS HEGINBOTHAM SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT WISH TO PROVIDE BRIEF PAPERS WITH OUR VIEWS ON SUB-TOPICS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST UNDER MAJOR AGENDA HEADINGS. WE HOPE THE GOJ WOULD THEN MAKE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE TOPICS.

6. DAS HEGINBOTHAM EXPLAINED AS A PERSONAL VIEW THAT, AS A FOLLOWUP, AND TO OPTIMIZE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, HE THOUGHT THAT JAPANESE PARTICIPANTS MIGHT VISIT WASHINGTON ROUGHLY SIX OR SO MONTHS LATER. WE DID NOT WANT THE SUB-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 170036

CABINET MEETING TO DEVELOP INTO A ROUTINE BILATERAL CONSULTATION FORUM, BUT SHOULD PROBABLY RELATE THEIR UTILITY TO THE STATUS OF OUR CONSULTATIONS IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS, SUCH AS THE SUMMIT PROGRESS-MONITORING MEETINGS.

7. IN THIS CONNECTION, DAS HEGINBOTHAM ADDRESSED THE PRESS ISSUE. HE EMPHASIZED THE SUBCABINET MEETING SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A CONTRONTATION BUT AS A DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNERS ON MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES OF EQUAL MUTUAL CONCERN.

8. FUKADA FOCUSED ON BILATERAL ISSUES IN A MORE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF JAPAN'S ROLE IN THE WORLD TRADE AND PAYMENTS SYSTEM. HE EXPLAINED THAT WHILE SOME SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER ARE READY TO TAKE FURTHER MEASURES, THERE IS WIDESPREAD SENTIMENT IN JAPAN THAT IT IS CRITICIZED UNFAIRLY FOR HAVING MANAGED TO OVERCOME THE ADVERSE AFFECTS OF THE OIL SHOCK. DAS HEGINBOTHAM WELCOMED GOJ AWARENESS OF NEEDS TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO REDUCE ITS CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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